

新聞摘要

主業團東亞區資訊社所編輯之期刊
主業團是羅馬天主教會內的一個屬人監督團
由聖若瑟瑪利亞施禮華創辦。

events

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主業團東亞區資訊社

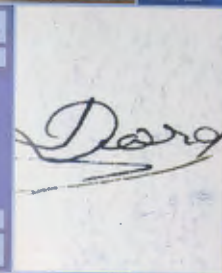
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Special Issue 15th Anniversary
十五週年紀念特刊

Compiled by Opus Dei Information Office in East Asia
由主業團東亞區資訊社編輯

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《新聞摘要》十五週年紀念特刊之見證

在第七天的祈禱，我的丈夫竟獲邀去面試！

我的丈夫過去數年一直在一間國際渡假酒店的人事部工作，但在2009年六月，酒店再沒有和他續約。他隨後寄出了很多求職信向數間酒店及規模相約的機構申請職位，雖然他擁有良好的工作經驗，但只有兩三個面試的機會。九個多月後，他因仍找不到工作而情緒開始非常低落。



我的丈夫雖然嬰兒時已領洗，但已很久沒有實踐教友的本份。於2010年，當我看見他因一直失業而對一切失去信心，我突然想起很久以前一位主業團的朋友給了我一張聖施禮華的祈禱卡。雖然已是19年前的事，但當她給我一份《新聞摘要》時，我再次記起聖施禮華的事蹟。我深受《新聞摘要》中的〈藉由聖施禮華轉求而得到的恩惠〉所感動，心想：噢，祈禱真的有效啊。在《新聞摘要》的右上角有一個網頁的連結：www.josemariaescriva.info，我在這連結的網址再次看到聖施禮華的祈禱卡。我打印了祈禱卡，開始向聖施禮華做九日的祈禱。於祈禱的第七天，我丈夫收到面試的通知！

我因此鼓勵丈夫開始向聖施禮華祈禱。不到一個月，他受聘於一間新的渡假酒店，一年約滿後，他接著找到另一間公司更重要的職位，一直在那裡工作。我丈夫更在此期間完成了人力資源管理的課程，獲得了學士學位。



我和我的朋友提起這事，我告訴她我只有一張打印的祈禱卡，請她給我一張真的祈禱卡。

我們將所有得到的都歸因於聖施禮華。我從《新聞摘要》中更認識他，他真的俯聽了我們的祈禱及救助了我們。

自此之後，我和丈夫定期地參與主日感恩祭。我們亦會參與如四旬期及復活節的特別禮儀。

我亦在主業團的中心參加了教理班。

H. I. L.
澳門，2013年9月25日
www.opusdei.org.hk (見證)



一個星期日的早上，在往自己堂區教堂望彌撒前，我去了另一間教堂。那裏正值舉行賣書活動，有人派給我一本《新聞摘要》和一張求聖施禮華代禱的祈禱卡。

我閱讀後，便給她回覆了一段讀後感：「我被妳送給我的那本黃色小冊子《新聞摘要》內的故事深深感動著！」其後我又再告訴她我的感受，特別是在閱讀了「因為一本我在監獄內看過的書」和「天主之友」這兩個故事的內容。當晚，我還用了聖施禮華的祈禱卡請他代禱，並且已經獲得了一個恩惠！我要求更多的祈禱卡來轉送給我的朋友們，而且還將那本《新聞摘要》小冊子帶到我們的天主教團體內與同伴分享。

在這小冊子內，我也讀到關於杜麗的生平事蹟和經她代禱的恩惠。我知道她是做家務工作的。現今，對她可能被封聖的調查正在展開。這對我來說是極大的鼓舞，因為我也是一位正在香港做家務工作的傭工。我可以在很多事情上請求她幫助！我要求獲得多些杜麗的祈禱卡以便能夠與其他像我(和杜麗)般，從事家居工作的朋友分享。

其後，我收到更多早期的《新聞摘要》。為此我很是感恩，因為其內容實在是令人感動；我會將它們與其他人分享。我是多麼渴望能夠讀到更多關於聖施禮華的事蹟啊！

J.C.
香港，2013年6月24日

我是一位菲律賓女傭，也是主業團的可婚成員。每天我都往附近堂區的教堂參與平日彌撒。彌撒後，我會以微笑及說聲「早晨」來跟其他的教友打招呼。有一天，我送了一本《新聞摘要》給其中一位中國籍女傭，她極之欣賞。雖然我們在言語溝通方面是有些限制，漸漸地我們卻成為了朋友。

其後，每逢有新的《新聞摘要》期刊出版，我都會送一本給她。她總是感激地說她很喜歡閱讀它們。

在今年5月，「錦謙」一個由主業團所負責，專為培育女青少年的中心舉行了一個籌款的綜合表演。當我邀請她參加這活動時，她向我買了兩張籌款券並說會嘗試出席。那天，她還帶了朋友來參加活動並且認識了很多其他主業團的成員。我很鼓舞，我希望她漸漸深入地認識主業團。

V.L.
香港，2013年5月13日

我是主業團的協助人，我慣常從我的住處(梅窩)乘渡輪前往中環。某天，我在渡輪中遇到一位女孩子。航程中，我和她交談並向她介紹了主業團。在上岸前，我還送了一本《新聞摘要》給她便分手。

一星期後，我接到她的來電，告訴我說她對該《新聞摘要》所刊載的內容甚為感動。更對主業團中心所舉辦的一些活動產生興趣呢！

A.E.
香港，2013年5月12日

蔡浩偉主教：「一個可喜的巧合」

蔡浩偉主教對於因若望保祿二世及歐華路轉禱而出現的奇跡獲教廷確認、教宗決定對若望廿三世開展封聖，以及其他封聖程序等，發表以下聲明

2013年7月16日

對於真福若望保祿二世即將獲冊封為聖人，以及可敬者歐華路在不久的將來列品真福的消息，既是一個可喜的巧合，亦是我們深切喜悅的原因。對於教宗方濟各的決定，我們應當衷心感謝天主。

真福若望保祿二世以孜孜不倦的慷慨心將他的一生奉獻為人群服務。藉著他豐富的教導、他的說話和著作、他的形象，以及他許多充滿意味深長的舉動，都帶領我們更接近天主。他的一生建基於與耶穌基督密切的契合。你只需見到他祈禱，就能領悟他牧職的成果。

為所有的信眾、教會，以及尤其是，我可以說——屬於教會一部份的主業社團，若望保祿二世與若望廿三世都是與我們關係密切的真正父親。我相信他們幫助了無數的人們，讓他們感受到自己是教宗的「鍾愛子女」。



蔡浩偉蒙席與將列品真福的歐華路

歐華路主教是聖施禮華的最佳支持者，他亦是若望保祿二世最忠信的協同者。來自世界各地的許多神職人員和平信徒曾經告訴我，這位忠信的司鐸為他們作了何等的好事。而他們一致地贊成：他們很自然地去愛他、去信任他的建議，因為他們能夠感受到他的真誠以及司鐸對靈魂的熱切關心。

教會於早期把歐華路主教視為「極有品德而又和藹可親的人，能夠傳播和平與平靜予人靈」。在這歡欣的時刻，我請求這位善良而又忠信的僕人為我代禱，祈求他「傳染」給我們他對於天主、教會、教宗、聖施禮華、以及他的朋友的忠信。我祈求他為我們贏取共同分擔他對社會的關注，這些可從他給予支持在世界各地為有需要的人士所舉行的各樣活動表現出來。我祈求他可以傳播給我們他對於家庭的鍾愛、他對於司鐸職的熱愛，以及他的親切和孝愛，這些都充滿著聖母瑪利亞的特色。

沉浸主內的人

若瑟·伊凡神父探究了一位主教一生的聖德。這位主教曾領導主業團19年，他快將獲列真福品。若瑟·伊凡神父是倫敦大學英皇學院的天主教校牧，並且是主業團英國區議會的參議員。

2013年10月23日



真福若望保祿二世其中一樣偉蹟，就是他心感需要便適時制宜地摒棄禮俗。例如1994年3月23日的黃昏，這位波蘭教宗步出梵蒂岡到羅馬的市郊，向一位剛去世的西班牙主教的遺體作告別祈禱。本來，一位教宗只需發帛唁電郵便足以表達

他的哀思(這次若望保祿二世其實亦已發過了)，但他親臨死者的遺體旁祈禱則是前所未聞的。

教宗這樣做確是表達出他對這位剛過世的人及其領導的團體極大的情意。這人就是Alvaro del Portillo歐華路主教，他曾擔任主業團的監督長達19年後過身了。

因此，梵蒂岡今次在同一份宣布中同時核實經他們兩位的代禱而獲得治癒的奇蹟，真是最適合不過了。真福若望保祿二世的治癒奇蹟獲致他的宣聖，歐華路主教的奇蹟則開展了他的宣福。若望保祿二世曾高度讚揚歐華路主教。事實上，上述的親臨祈禱中，教宗婉拒誦唸為亡者的經文，只唸了一篇萬福母皇經，三篇光榮頌和一遍簡短的為所有已亡者的禱文。他好像肯定這位主教的靈魂已升天堂。所以，在他死後20年被顯榮於祭台上是不足為奇的。



我曾有幸在某些場合與歐華路主教相遇過，因此對此絕不驚訝。他滿溢溫情暖意，慈愛善良，深愛基督，切願服務教會。「忠貞」是用來形容他最常用的字。他是聖施禮華(主業團創辦人)差不多40年中最親密的合作伙伴和最忠實的神子。當聖施禮華於1975年過身時，他接任這個組織的領導直至離世。

他最關注的，只有一件事，就是主業團是否常常忠於天主啟示給聖施禮華看見的精神，他只把自己視作這位創辦人的影子。事實上，他常會用樂團的指揮打比方：繼續在天堂指揮的是聖施禮華，他自己只是指揮棒。在他的領導下，主業團擴展到很多國家，為貧窮的人提供了廣濶的機會。他亦熱衷於若望保祿二世所倡導，其中一個最好的例子，就是他把教宗在1985年的歐洲「再福傳」的號召嚴肅看待，銘記在心，付諸實行。



他對羅馬教宗有一種深邃的、神學上的愛。當他論及這位基督在世的代表——無論在位的是誰——時，他總是充滿信理上的深度和稚子的熱愛之情。明顯的，他對教宗沃伊蒂瓦(Wojtyla)有一份獨特的個人熱愛和感情。歐華路主教和教宗若望保祿二世曾共渡許多有趣的時光。例如，歐華路主教的一位助手與教宗很熟稔，他通常會陪同監督前往探望教宗。他的頭髮微禿，教宗會拿他的禿頭開點小玩笑，在他的頭上覆手降福，看看頭髮會否因此生長。當然，禿頭光亮如昔。歐華路主教會把這形容為「教宗的唯一的失敗」，這是他與教宗之間的逸事。

然而歐華路主教其實是一位嚴肅內儉且羞怯的人。他年青時修讀工程的一個原因是為了避免需要公開說話。諷刺的是，他生命最後的20年差不多都在公開說話。但是他願意為了把靈魂帶到基督面前，和傳播聖施禮華在日常生活中成聖的訊息做任何事情。

他當主業團的監督時，開始了一個美好的傳統，就是發出每月牧民信函給所有主業團成員，函中他對天主的愛常能形於言表，他天性溫良，但渴求聖德。他跟人群公開會面時，也展現了同樣的精神。他在德克

薩斯州的侯斯頓告訴群眾說：「我們不能只做兼職的基督徒。我們要當全職，不能只作星期天教友，好像那些只在星期六傍晚或星期日只望半個鐘頭彌撒便了事的教友。這條戒命該守，但我們為愛天主，該多作一點。天主是我們的創造者、主和「愛」，對我們當有權要求多一點自我奉獻。」真的，作為聖神的忠實工具，他以權威發言，因為他言行一致。



歐華路主教簡樸，聰敏。他在梵蒂岡第二次大公會議期間擔當十分重要的角色，尤其推動平信徒參與教會內的角色及有關司鐸品位的法令有特別貢獻，這使他在梵蒂岡深受敬重。但他總是低調謹慎，少有提及自己在大公會議的貢獻。

歐華路主教也像若望保祿二世一樣，同樣在過身後對千萬求他代禱者表現出驚人的能力。宣聖部已收到超過一萬二千宗透過他轉禱得到恩寵的案例，包括不同的奇蹟醫治及涉及日常生活的小事。他的「專長」似乎在於幫忙夫婦和洽相處，求獲麟兒及為家庭帶來修和。

其中一項真正得到梵蒂岡確認的奇蹟案例是一名智利嬰兒的奇蹟痊癒。這名嬰兒患有嚴重的心臟病，疝氣病和腦部損害。有一次，他心搏停止超過30分鐘，還有大量出血。奇妙的，是他最後健康痊癒，一個月後出院至今已十年，一直正常生活。這名嬰兒Jose Ignacio在母親懷著他期間，問題多多。所以他的父母一開始便向歐華路主教祈禱。他們祈禱不斷，又請了其他人一起代禱，使孩子能渡過難關，即使醫生已經判定他死亡了，這孩子還是挺了過來。他現在活得健康活潑，他愛音樂，愛足球。這次經驗為他父母帶來深深的轉化。



讓主業團監督列入真福品的奇蹟

Jack Valero 詳述嬰兒荷西·依納其·烏列塔·威爾森的痊癒個案

2003年8月2日，病童荷西·依納其·烏列塔·威爾森心跳停頓超過三十分鐘後得以復原，聖座現已將此事認證為奇蹟。荷西·依納其於2003年7月10日出生於智利的聖地牙哥，他的健康狀況非常惡劣。他患有法洛氏四合症(tetralogy of Fallot) (同時有四種心臟缺陷，導致缺氧血與含氧血混合在一起)及先天性肚臍膨出(omphalocele)，腹腔內的器官露出腹壁，形成腹部隆起。

出生後兩天，他接受了治療肚臍膨出的手術，手術中他的心臟首次停止跳動。從7月19日到7月25日期間，他經歷三次缺氧：一次在7月19日，由整個左肺膨脹不全(atelectasis)所導致；7月25日發生了兩次全右肺膨脹不全。缺氧使他的腦部嚴重受損，7月28日的超聲波掃描顯示腦部有缺血缺氧的損傷。不久後，情況惡化，7月29至30日的夜晚，荷西·依納其癲癇發作。

7月30日，醫療團隊決定進行一項暫緩性的心臟手術，即BT分流術(Blalock-Taussig shunt)。

8月2日下午1時左右，病情嚴重惡化，引起急性心衰竭。下午2時類似情況再度發生，荷西·依納其被診斷出大量心包填塞(massive cardiac tamponade)。心臟積聚過量血液，以致心臟無法泵血供應至身體各部分，他的心臟最終於下午3點30分停止跳動。

荷西·依納其接受了30-45分鐘的心臟復甦治療(期間他的心臟停止跳動)，包括心臟按摩，心包穿刺術(pericardiocentesis) (穿刺心臟薄膜及輸導積液)，和多重輸血。情況持續惡化，心包已引流出超過140毫升的血液(估計比這樣大小的嬰兒的總血量還多)。

經歷了30-45分鐘徒勞的努力，醫療團隊漸漸意識到嬰兒已死亡——按既定的處理程序——他們會減緩供氧操作和心臟按摩。然而此時，



在絲毫無任何期待和其他醫療動作之下，嬰兒的心臟再次開始跳動，很快地達到每分鐘130下。

新生兒的腦部由於缺氧損傷而受影響，在心臟如此長期停止跳動情形之下，一般來說是會造成顱內嚴重受損的，且會較7月28日超聲波檢驗結果還要嚴重。不過，事實卻不是這樣。

荷西·依納其經歷這些事後，在往後的日子，情況持續改善，並於2003年9月3日出院。10年過後的今天，他過著非常正常的生活，沒有後遺症。

由於懷孕的過程並不順利，所以在荷西·依納其出生前，他的父母已不斷為兒子向天主的忠僕歐華路主教祈求代禱。那時候，他的母親經常將歐華路主教祈禱卡緊貼著肚皮。之後又將祈禱卡貼在嬰兒床上，並請親友替荷西·依納其的健康向歐華路主教尋求代禱。

在8月2日長時間的心臟停頓過程中，這對父母懷著極大的信德，為了孩子的痊癒，不停地向歐華路主教祈禱。一提到那日，荷西·依納其的母親說：「我覺得，那時他們正在搶救他，而我則在祈禱，那正好是他逐漸好轉的時候。我想這中間有某種關連……我一直認為這是個奇蹟。」

2007年，這對夫婦到羅馬歐華路主教的墓前祈禱，為所獲得的恩惠感恩。

由於這次康復事件顯得如此不尋常，智利聖地牙哥的總主教Ricardo Ezzati Andrello按為這類事件預立的規定，在2008年7月22日開展奇蹟調查 (Inquiry Super Miraculo)，指派教區法庭進行審查。2010年1月15日，教廷冊封聖人部 (Congregation for the Causes of Saints) 核准教區法庭的審理行動。

2012年10月18日，冊封聖人部的醫療委員會對此案展開研究。研究後醫師們指出這痊癒個案的兩項要點：新生兒腦部經歷多次缺氧，因心跳停頓而產生的神經損傷並未發生；和新生兒仍然存活的事實。冊封聖人部的專家宣布這兩件事實無法以科學角度解釋。

繼之，這件案子被呈交予神學顧問團檢核。2012年12月15日，顧問團宣布荷西·依納其奇蹟般的痊癒及尋求歐華路主教代禱之間的關連性，在邏輯理性上是無合理疑點的。

終於，封聖部的樞機和主教在2013年6月4日的常會中，一致認同醫學會議和神學顧問團的結論，決議此案經過嚴謹證論，應被視為奇蹟。

教宗方濟各從冊封聖人部部長Angelo Amato樞機收到此份報告，記載著上述的所有細節，教宗於2013年7月5日宣布，有充足的證據顯示，天主是藉著其可敬的忠僕歐華路之代禱而施行了這個奇蹟。

Jack Valero 英國主業團新聞發布人

2013年7月23日

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/613/18>

我們的婚姻是建基在愛、信德和幽默感之上的

Ian和Nicola路易斯分享他們婚姻生活中的喜樂與奮鬥，他們述說聖施禮華的教導對他們婚姻生活的影響。

2013年1月7日

Ian和Nicola 與他們8個子女（他們第9個孩子將於4月出世）居於新西蘭的漢彌頓 (Hamilton)，子女年齡介乎18個月至15歲大。

你們是怎樣預備婚姻生活的？

在訂婚前，我們討論關於婚姻的主要範疇：終生不渝，對生育開放和忠於天主。雖然我們不太肯定該如何去應付一個大家庭（如果那是天主的計劃），我們知道當事情發生時，祂會幫我們去面對的。我們對於將來都有一點兒緊張，但是我們決意要懷著信德，對雙方和對天主都有一份信靠的心，一起跨出那一大步。

Ian的求婚過程是在攀爬奧克蘭的維多利亞山峰時進行的。求婚過程縱然充滿浪漫氣氛，可是他不可以單膝跪下求婚，因為地上佈滿牛糞。所以，從一開始我們便充分地面對生活的實況，且認知到良好的幽默感的重要性。

訂婚後，我們接受主業團神父的婚前培育，這培育幫助鞏固我們的關係，讓我們更清晰地明白我們所許的承諾。我們學到溝通對於夫妻來說是非常重要的，而且透過婚配聖事，我們常能得到天主的恩寵。



Ian和Nicola

你們這段婚姻最好的部份是什麼？

我們的婚姻最好的部份就是彼此雙方。我們有共同的信仰和價值觀，這對於我們作出某些重大的決定例如：生兒育女，解決問題，學習去愛和互相寬恕…是非常有用的。我們非常愛我們的孩子，就算他們有時會令我們有點生氣。我們一起祈禱，一同參與彌撒，而我們也意識到我們要互相扶持，幫助對方到達天國。

你們的婚姻生活有什麼挑戰？

要完成所有的事情有時是極具挑戰性。我們的家庭生活經常是一片混亂和缺乏條理的。為我們來說，保持平靜和耐性可以說是一項挑戰。有時，接送子女往返學校，參與運動和其他活動令我們自覺儼如一輛不停服務的出租車。

此外，在一個不大支持基督宗教價值觀的社會裏，我們嘗試將基督宗教的價值觀傳遞給下一代也是一項挑戰。可是，我們相信如果我們能夠成為社會中的活躍份子，我們就能改變這個社會。我們留意孩子們所閱讀的書籍，所看的電影與他們所結交的朋友。我們決意花時間陪伴我們的子女：家庭旅行，單與單相處（就算只是一起洗碗），偶爾與一個或數個孩子出外吃冰淇淋等。我們有些為某些人而言可能像是有點兒嚴苛的家規：不可在朋友家過夜，他們要共用一部手機，限制使用電腦及看電視的時間。取而代之，我們有很多好玩的家庭旅行和探險（去海灘看日出和喝一杯熱朱古力、去西岸看日落和看星星、到國家公園玩雪和浸溫泉一日遊），孩子們的很多朋友都說我們一家做了「很多很『酷』的事情」，而我們認為我們的子女並沒有因為缺乏最新的玩意和科技而錯過些什麼。

你們的信仰怎樣影響你們婚姻的看法？

我倆都是實踐信仰的天主教徒，我們參與平日彌撒和定期去辦修和聖事。從聖體聖事所得到的靈修幫助有助於我們去面對家庭生活中一些無可避免的困難。假如我們其中一方生氣了，我們確保一定會先向對方道歉，然後才討論問題之所在。因為我們作了一個終生的承諾，就是要彼此愛護和尊重；我們也知道天主臨在於我們的婚姻及家庭之中；所以純粹只是「表面禮貌」並不足夠的，天主知道我們心裡想什麼。因此，我們更能深入了解大家發生衝突的原因，並幫助我們以尊重及謙遜的態度彼此相待而避免因自尊心受損而針鋒相對。



路易斯一家

我們的信仰賦予我們的婚姻更深層的意義，不單只是一個有價值卻流於人性化的事實，我們相信我們的婚姻是恩寵的來源，亦是幫助我們成聖的途徑，對於那些會威脅或削弱我們婚姻的事情我們都會嚴肅地看待。我們會定期為我們的婚姻和家庭祈禱，祈求聖母及聖若瑟幫助我們效法他們的家庭生活。

聖施禮華的教導怎樣幫助你們夫婦倆人？

聖施禮華的教導說明「婚姻生活就是夫婦成聖的來源」，這對我們有極大的幫助。我們知道我們怎樣愛護對方、我們在家中的言行舉止、我們怎樣與鄰人和朋友相處、我們如何養育我們的孩子等全都繫於天主的恩寵；而這一切都是每位平信徒在每天的生活中該體現出來的。

我們都是主業團的一份子，我們每天都為我們的聖召而奮鬥——我們嘗試讓我們的工作奉獻給天主，並盡力成為良好的父母及朋友，在祈禱中、彌撒中及每天誦唸玫瑰經時、在定期的修和聖事中，我們都與天主相遇，盡量保持喜樂——這些都能夠幫助我們在陷入困境和犯錯時，（藉著天主的恩寵）重新開始。定期的神修指導和培育讓我們在人性上及靈性上獲益良多。

你們認為夫婦倆人找時間獨處是否重要？

這絕對是重要的！雖然有時這會是一項真正的挑戰。通常孩子在晚上就寢後，我們都忙著其他事，我們往往很難在週末抽出時間來談話和彼此相處。但我們會定期安排出外晚飯和看電影，而且每年我倆都會私下用一個週末出門渡假。有時，我們也會提早讓孩子們上床睡覺，好讓我們有時間閒談又或僅是騰出時間彼此相處。

你們的家庭有什麼是不會放棄的呢？

溝通，家庭祈禱和誦唸玫瑰經。我們每晚都一起祈禱，而孩子們則參與誦唸一端玫瑰經和奉獻他們小小的意向，這些意向常令我們及較年長的孩子甚或是聖母都忍俊不禁。

為準備結婚的年青人，你有什麼忠告？

找一個你信任的人徵詢意見，在你考慮結婚前先要處理一些重要的事項，例如：婚姻是終生不渝的，對生育開放的，及有賴信德和天主的愛和助佑的。當你澄清了這些重要事情和得到一些實在的建議和培育之後，不要猶疑，那就結婚去開展一段冒險旅程吧。

你們在聖誕節時有沒有什麼家庭習俗或傳統？

我們會裝飾聖誕樹和耶穌族譜樹。我們會佈置馬槽和擺設將臨期花環。離平安夜的日子越近，孩子們會把馬槽的人物逐步移近。我們會告訴他們聖若瑟和聖母的經歷和賢士們的想法。我們會在平安夜參與子夜彌撒，我們還有個小傳統，就是把耶穌聖嬰的塑像放在馬槽裡，然後讓所有孩子來親吻祂。

經杜麗代禱而得之恩惠

她為我們找到住所



我在 Sant Cugat del Valles 的主業團中心擔任家務管理。我一開始工作，那裡的人便教我每天三鐘經後向杜麗祈禱，請她在日常工作中幫助我們。幾天後，我已背熟這祈禱，遇到困難就轉向她，而她總是給我幫助。

四個月前，我決定在私人事務上也祈求她的幫忙。我開始將所有事情都交託給她代禱。

她幫忙的第一件事，是助我找到現在的寓所。我先生中風後肢體部分癱瘓，不能再擔任原本卡車司機的工作。為了找到適合我們情況的住所，我已經花了大約兩年時間了。我的兒子今年二十歲，女兒十五歲。我們需要的寓所要有充足日光、有電梯，足夠的房間、兩間浴室，地點要在市中心，靠近健身房，好讓我先生能復健、學習行走。如果可能，最好還有個陽台，供他閱讀。條件不少，但我懷著信德祈禱。次天，仲介問我要不要去看看房子。我熱切地向杜麗祈禱，希望她能為此幫忙。

我們全家一起去看了寓所，興奮地發現條件全部符合，除了這間寓所只有一間浴室。

「太可惜了！」我向杜麗說道。卻旋即發現另一扇門，打開後竟是第二間浴室，我吃驚極了！這絕對是要感謝杜麗，如果屋主和仲介早注意到有兩間浴室，租金一定會開得更高。感謝杜麗，我也請她幫忙，希望我們舊的傢具能與新的寓所配合，結果完全合適。現在，我有一個溫馨舒適的住所了。

杜麗的幫忙如此迅速，充滿奇效，我再請她幫忙好使我們能順利賣出我先生的車。這輛卡車的貸款尚未償清，而先生中風後再也沒使用。幾天而已，這輛車就賣掉了。

我持續向杜麗祈禱，感謝她，請她保佑我們全家。我堅信，她既然幫我們找到一個居所，更會在所有事上幫助我們。

A.E.B. (西班牙)

轉瞬之間



我在歐陽杜麗的部落格(博客)讀到有關的恩惠祈求和文章。今天早上，我得到了上午休假的許可，替一位在國外的親戚領取結婚證書。不過，中午便得回去上班。

我11時前到達，已有53人在我前面。本想離開，但又想多留一會，看看隊伍進行的速度如何。時間一點一點的過去，大約11點35分，前面還有30個人。我決定如果11點45分我還未能在隊伍前方，我就得放棄了。因為我最遲要在12點前離開。

忽然，我想起一篇名為「往前排(I moved up in line)」恩惠轉求的文章。我決定向杜麗請求幫忙。我皮包裡有她的祈禱卡，我並沒抱太大信心，只唸了一次。可是之後我再懇切地祈求了第二次「杜麗，請幫我快點前進吧！」

號碼叫到165號之後，他們便叫179號(我是182號)，因為很多人等得不耐煩先走了。這真是太令人驚奇了，轉瞬間就叫到我的號碼了！一切都很順利，我在11點59分離開。

M.Z. (義大利)

聖施禮華到韓國

Hijung Shin 韓國



2013年5月7日

讀大學的時候，朋友送我《道路》一書。這是我第一次閱讀聖施禮華的作品，它深深地打動了我，讓我還想閱讀更多。聖施禮華的文章教曉了我許多事：如何與天主談話、如何處理瑣事、熱愛教會……等，最重要的是，它讓我感到非常喜樂。我想盡可能地跟所有人分享，包括在我家鄉——韓國——的家人朋友。

2009年的夏天，聽說主業團開始在韓國開展使徒工作，我更熱切地盼望搜尋更多有關聖施禮華的文章或其作品的韓文譯本。我得悉在幾年前，《道路》的韓文譯本經已發行，並受到許多讀者的推崇。然而，我希望有更多、更多的作品能譯成韓文。

我一位朋友的第二外語是韓語，他曾把童書版的聖施禮華自傳翻譯成韓文。我著手做一些講道詞和文章的韓文翻譯時，也幫這朋友校稿。我每完成一部份，就和我在韓國的朋友們分享，他們又再與他們的朋友分享。我們希望，有一天，這些文章能夠出版，好能惠及更多人靈。

在翻譯的過程中，我受惠甚多，我主要是從英文的翻譯本接觸到聖施禮華的著作的。每每我都感激作者和這許多的譯者，因為他們把聖施禮華的教導帶給更多人。

聖施禮華寫道：「I would like to write books of fire which would run like wild-fire throughout the world」，我花了許多時間推敲該如何以最佳的字眼翻譯聖施禮華著作中「fire」一字，然而，有時就是無法達意。文字彷彿不足以承載聖施禮華形容的那份愛及它所伴隨的那份富感染力的熱情。不過，一想到不久之後，將會有更多人在韓國接觸到聖施禮華，並且往後還會有更多更好的翻譯時，我就會感到欣慰。毫無疑問，這位天上的聖人必會給予幫助，點燃那文字難以表達的愛火。

經聖施禮華代禱而得之恩惠

在49年以後

這事發生在聖施禮華瞻禮日6月26日的前一星期。那天早上我正在禱告，在聖神感動之下我尋求聖施禮華的代禱，希望他能讓我弟弟出席「他」的彌撒（我指的是，在香港舉行的聖施禮華瞻禮彌撒）。



那天，我丈夫和我跟我弟弟共進午餐，我們邀請他6月26日一起吃晚餐，也邀請他去參加晚餐前的聖施禮華紀念彌撒。他家離舉行彌撒的教堂不過五分鐘路程。他看著邀請卡，大概過了一分鐘，同意跟我們去。「去看看是在做些什麼」他這麼說。

當下，我簡直無法隱藏內心的喜樂，心裏說出「太感謝你了，父親！」上次我弟弟去教堂是49年前，他當輔祭的時候。

彌撒後，我丈夫問他是否感到無聊，他說他並不覺得彌撒是無聊的事。我持續為他的回心轉意向聖施禮華祈禱，並相信他會得益的。聖施禮華在他自己特別的日子裡，幫助了我的弟弟邁開歸向主的腳步。

M.L.
香港，2013年7月6日

永不放棄！



今年較早前，我和家人決定來香港定居。起初，我以為找工作並不會太困難，因我在菲律賓有著理想的工作和良好的履歷。可是，三個月過去了，我的見工面試仍沒有運氣，心也沉下，我起了放棄的念頭，並考慮返回馬尼拉。一個朋友提議我為找到工作而做九日敬禮，我作了一連九天的祈求，等待又等待，要靜待忍

耐並不容易，但我深信聖施禮華從不拒絕我們的小請求。

我繼續那九日敬禮祈禱，深信不管情況有多壞，天主總不會拋棄我們，每件事發生乃有其原因及理由。在我生命的每一刻，聖施禮華亦正在引領我走近我主。我作這九日敬禮祈禱已有一個月了，正想放棄之際，我得到一份工作。多謝聖施禮華為我祈禱所獲得的恩惠，這答允發生在六月，也正是他的瞻禮月！

C. Ng, 香港
2013年8月21日

我轉校了

我是一位老師。婚後，我停止了工作，直至我們最小的女兒九歲時，才決定再工作，而為了掙得一個教師的職位，我得參加一個具競爭性的考試。這不是一件容易的事，於是我向聖施禮華祈求幫助——我沒執教鞭已有十六年，而今次考試的競技對手，不是剛畢業的生力軍，就是經驗豐富的老手。感謝聖施禮華的代禱，我考試及格，可是卻被分配到一個頗危險的地區上學，那裡遭受的暴力的禍害，也正是我國時刻受著的苦。那兒經常有當地的黑幫槍戰，我們便是在槍戰之中上課的，此外，花在交通上的時間和費用也很多。丈夫、孩子們和我通過聖施禮華的代禱，向天主和聖母瑪利亞祈求，讓我轉去一個較接近家園又較安全的地方工作。但轉校的條件是要在同一所學校工作至少三年。但是，在短短一年半後，我竟獲得轉校了。



我們相信，這是由於主業團創辦人的轉禱。在轉到新學校上課才幾天，我發現那裡有一所以聖施禮華命名的聖堂。其實，這區的居民不幸地也受著暴力的苦，只是不及第一間厲害。

我們繼續祈禱，通過聖施禮華的代禱，我真正想要的，是能轉到另一個區域工作。這要求很難實現，需要得到別人推薦，可是我沒有。我向教育部門提交所需文件，今年一月竟收到通知，轉校申請已獲批准。我在第二所學校只工作了十一個月。通過聖施禮華的代禱，聖母瑪利亞俯允了我們的祈求。

現在，我授課的學校離家很近。以往在上學途中可唸完玫瑰經，現在竟不夠時間唸完了。我再不用支付任何交通費，這地區既寧靜又安全。非常感謝聖施禮華在整個過程中的幫助。我們感覺他時刻與我們同在。

L.L. 哥倫比亞
2013年7月1日

他們給了我那份工作

我想對大家說，我是透過我的一個好朋友認識聖施禮華的。從那天起，我每天都過得非常感恩。



謝謝聖施禮華！他協助我回到天主身邊。我的信仰生活比以前更加充實了。

我求聖施禮華代我轉禱，希望能得到一份工作。那年的六月廿六號，我被邀請去面試。面試那天，我剛好牙痛，說起來，那天面試真的不容易。再等了六個月的時間，我終於在一月九日主業團創辦人聖施禮華生日那天得到了那份工作。聖施禮華，謝謝你！我每天工作得非常快樂，和同事間的相處也十分愉快。

M.S.C. 阿根廷
2013年7月19日

他救她脫離危險

我有一個家人患了肺炎，分別住了三個星期深切治療病房和兩個星期普通醫護病房。當她住院的時候，我拿着聖施禮華的祈禱卡不斷祈求，好讓她早日脫離生命危險。沒多久，她真的成功地越過了鬼門關，渡過了危險期，健康漸漸地恢復過來了。謝謝你的轉禱，聖施禮華！



J.G.B. 西班牙
2013年7月17日

她發現她懷孕了

我的一位朋友已結婚四年，她告訴我她一直沒有孩子。我建議她每天為這個意向請求聖施禮華代禱。雖然她有點疑惑，但她同意這樣做，我們便開始了祈禱。過了兩個星期後，她發現自己懷孕了。我們認為此事的成就歸於主業團創辦人聖施禮華。



A. 阿根廷
2013年7月4日

四十歲

我父母結婚15年，但仍未有小孩，母親曾嘗試不同方法也未曾成功。當她還在38歲的時候，已放棄了有小孩的念頭及停止所有治療。然後，她遇到一位女士，給了她一張聖施禮華的祈禱卡並開始祈禱。不久後，她竟然發現自己懷了我。那時，她是40歲，連醫生也很驚奇，因為媽媽已沒有做什麼療法。雖然我媽已是高齡產婦，但我是順產的，沒有任何問題發生。我父母親及我自己對這很感恩，我想再補充一點，我出生那天是9月14日，亦即是我們這裏慶祝「行奇蹟的上主」的節日那一天。



M.J.C. 哥倫比亞
2013年6月27日

新聞摘要十五週年 1998 - 2013

15th Anniversary of Events 1998 - 2013



Testimonies about the *Events* for the 15th anniversary issue

On the 7th day of praying, my husband was called for an interview!

My husband had been working in the Human Resources Department of an international resort hotel for a number of years, but in June 2009, his contract was not renewed and although he has good working experience, he got only two to three interview opportunities after sending out numerous application letters to other hotels and comparable organizations. After more than nine months, he was still unemployed and was starting to feel very depressed.



My husband was baptized Catholic when he was a baby but had not been practicing the Faith for a long time. In 2010, I saw him getting more disillusioned about not having a job as time passed. At that time, I came across the prayer card of St Josemaría, given to me by a long-time friend from Opus Dei. Although she had given me a prayercard around 19 years ago, I remembered about St Josemaría again when she gave me an issue of *Events*. I was impressed with the section of “Favors granted through the intercession of St Josemaría” in that booklet, which made me think – Oh, the prayers do work. I saw the web link in the upper right corner: www.josemariaescriva.info. Through this link, I saw again the prayercard to St Josemaría in the website. I printed it out and started praying to St Josemaría, with the aim of doing it for 9 days. On the

7th day of praying, my husband was called for an interview!

So I encouraged my husband to start praying to St Josemaría. In a matter of a month or less, my husband got

a contract from a newly opened resort hotel and worked there for about a year and almost right after that, he was employed by another company with greater responsibilities where he is still working until today. My husband also managed to obtain a graduate degree in Human Resource Management in between this period.



I mentioned this to my friend, and I asked for an actual prayercard, as I told her, I only had the print-out by then.

We can only attribute all of these to St Josemaría, whom I started to know more through the *Events*, and he indeed heeded our prayers and came to our aid.

After that, both my husband and I regularly attend Sunday Mass. We also participated in the special liturgical ceremonies such as Lent and Easter.

I am also receiving now catechism classes in a centre of Opus Dei.

H.I.L.

Macao, September 25, 2013

www.josemariaescriva.info (Testimonies)

One Sunday morning, before I went to my parish church to attend Mass, I visited another church. There was a book sales going on, and someone gave me the *Events* and a prayercard to St. Josemaría.

After I read it, I wrote to her a text saying: “I was inspired with the stories in the booklet – *Events* - that you gave me”. Later I told her: especially, the story of “Because of a book I read in prison” and “Friends of God”. I also told her that I used the prayercard to St. Josemaría on the same night I received it, and I already received a favour from him.



I asked for some more prayercards to St. Josemaría for my friends, and I shared the *Events* to my companions in a Catholic organization that I go to.

In this booklet, I also read about the life of Dora, and the favors granted through her. I learned that she was doing domestic work. And now, her life is being studied because she can be a saint! This is helpful for me, because I am a domestic worker here (in Hong Kong) and I can ask her help for different things. I asked for prayer cards to Dora, so I can share about her to my other friends who also work in the house like me (and Dora).

The other day, I received some past issues of *Events*. I am thankful for these, as when I finished reading them, I find them inspiring and I am sharing them to other people I know. How I wish I can read more about St. Josemaría Escriva.

J.C.
Hong Kong, June 24, 2013

I am a domestic helper and a supernumerary of Opus Dei. I go to daily Mass at the parish church nearby. Everyday, I see other daily Mass goers and I smile at them and greet them "Good Morning" after the Mass. One day, I decided to give a copy of the *Events* to one of them, a Chinese lady. She was very appreciative of it and little by little, although we could not communicate much due to limitations in language, we became friends.

Later, I gave her more copies of the *Events* when the new issues came out and she was always grateful, and told me that she liked reading them a lot.

In the month of May, Kam Him, a centre for girls and ladies, whose formation is entrusted to Opus Dei, had a fund-raising Variety Show. I was able to sell two fundraising tickets to my Chinese lady friend and invited her to the activity. She said she would try.

I was so happy to learn that she went to the centre with her other friend and they both attended the activity. They were able to meet other persons of Opus Dei and I hope that little by little, she will know more about the Work.

V.L.
Hong Kong, May 13, 2013

I am a Cooperator of Opus Dei. I usually take the ferry from Mui Wo (where I live) going to Central. On one of the ferry rides, I met a nice girl and we started talking. Before we parted, I told her about Opus Dei and I gave her a copy of the *Events*.

One week later, I received a phone call from her. She told me that she read the articles in the *Events* and she was so moved. Moreover, she is interested in attending some activities in a centre of Opus Dei.

A.E.
Hong Kong, May 12, 2013

With Gratitude to Venerable Alvaro del Portillo

Bishop Echevarría: “A happy coincidence”

July 05, 2013

Statement of Bishop Javier Echevarría concerning the approval of miracles attributed to the intercession of John Paul II and Alvaro del Portillo, and the Pope’s decision to canonize John XXIII.

The announcement of the forthcoming canonizations of Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII, and the future beatification of the venerable Alvaro del Portillo is a happy coincidence and a cause of deep joy. We should be profoundly grateful to God for Pope Francis’ decision.

Blessed John Paul II spent himself with untiring generosity in the service of mankind. He brought us closer to God with his rich teaching, through his words and writings, with images and so many gestures charged with meaning. His whole life was based on intimate union with Jesus Christ. You needed only to see him pray to understand the fruitfulness of his ministry.

John Paul II and John XXIII were truly fathers close to all the faithful, to the Church, and particularly, I can say, to this part of the Church which is the Prelature of Opus Dei. I think they helped millions of people to feel that they were the Pope’s “much-loved sons and daughters.”



Monsignor Echevarría and the future Blessed Alvaro del Portillo

Bishop Alvaro del Portillo was Saint Josemaría’s best support, and a most faithful collaborator of John Paul II. Many churchmen and lay people from all over the world have told me how much good this faithful priest did to them. And they all agree in this: that it was easy for them to love him, to trust his advice, because they sensed his sincere and priestly interest for their souls.

Earlier the Church referred to Bishop Alvaro del Portillo as a “profoundly good and amiable man, able to transmit peace and serenity to souls.” At this time of joy, I turn to the intercession of this good and faithful servant, and I ask him to “infect” us with his loyalty to God, the Church, the Pope, Saint Josemaría, and to his friends. I ask him to win for us a share in his social concern, which was shown in the many initiatives around the world for people in need which he encouraged. I ask that he may transmit to us his special love for the family and his passionate love for the priesthood, as well as his tender and simple piety, which had such a Marian flavour.

A man immersed in God

Fr Joseph Evans explores the life of holiness of a bishop who was head of Opus Dei for 19 years, and is now about to be beatified. Fr Joseph Evans is Roman Catholic Chaplain to Kings College London and a member of the Regional Council of Opus Dei in Britain.

July 22, 2013



One of the many great things about Blessed John Paul II was his willingness to disregard protocol when reasons of the heart required it. One such example took place on the late afternoon of 23rd March 1994 when the Polish pontiff left the Vatican to

go to a Roman suburb to pray at the corpse of a Spanish bishop who had died that same day. Popes might send telegrams of condolence (and John Paul II had already done just that). It was almost unheard of that they went in person to pray by the deceased's body.

The fact that the Pope did so was a sign of his enormous affection for the man he was going to pray for, and the organisation this person had led until that day. He was Bishop Alvaro del Portillo and he died that morning after 19 years as head of the Opus Dei prelature.

Thus it is so fitting that both men should appear on the same declaration announcing Vatican approval of miraculous cures carried out through their intercession. Whereas the cure for Blessed John Paul will lead to his canonisation, that of Del Portillo opens the way to his beatification.



John Paul II thought very highly of Bishop Alvaro. Indeed, on that same visit he declined to say a responsory prayer for his soul, preferring to pray a Salve, three Glorias and then finally the very brief *requiem aeternam dona ei* prayer. He seemed convinced that the bishop was already in heaven. Thus, it is not surprising that Del Portillo looks likely to be raised to the altars 20 years after his death.

As someone who met Bishop Alvaro on a number of occasions, I certainly am not surprised. He stood out as a man of enormous warmth and kindness, passionately in love with Christ, and with a burning desire to serve the Church. The word that is constantly applied to him is "fidelity". For almost 40 years he was the closest collaborator and most faithful spiritual son of St Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei. At Escrivá's death in 1975, he took over as head of the organisation and remained so until his death.



His one and only concern was to keep Opus Dei faithful to the spirit God had inspired St Josemaría to see, and he considered himself merely the "shadow" of the founder. Indeed, he would often use the metaphor of the orchestra conductor: he was just the baton, while Escrivá continued to conduct from heaven. Under his lead Opus Dei expanded to numerous new countries and promoted a wide range of initiatives for the poor. He was also very keen to second any initiative promoted by John Paul II. A good example of this was how seriously he took to heart and encouraged the Pope's 1985 call for the "re-evangelisation" of Europe.

He had a profoundly theological love for the Roman Pontiff whoever he might be, simply because he was the Vicar of Christ, and spoke of his figure with both doctrinal depth and an almost boyish enthusiasm. But he clearly had a particular personal love and affection for Papa Wojtyła.

Bishop Alvaro and John Paul II had a lot of fun together. For example, a particular aide of Del Portillo, himself quite close to John Paul and who would usually accompany the Prelate to visit the Pope, was somewhat bald. The Holy Father gave him a blessing on his head, largely in jest, to see if it could make the hair grow. Sure enough the aide's pate remained as hairless as before. Bishop Alvaro would describe this as "the Pope's only failure", a joke which clearly he had shared with the Pope himself.



In fact, however, Bishop Alvaro was quite a serious man, and certainly a shy one. One reason he chose to study engineering as a young man was to avoid having to speak in public. It is ironic that he spent almost the last 20 years of his life doing just that. But he would do whatever was required to bring souls to Christ and to spread St Josemaría's message of the need to seek sanctity in everyday life and work.

As Prelate of Opus Dei he began the custom of sending a monthly pastoral letter to all the members of the Prelature in which his love of God constantly shone out. In his gentle manner, he would demand nothing less than sanctity. The same spirit came across in his public meetings with groups who gathered to hear him. "We cannot be part-time Christians," he told a crowd in Houston, Texas. "We have to be full-time. We can't be weekend Christians, like those who dedicate half-an-hour to hear Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday, and do nothing more. This precept must be fulfilled, but we are asked for a lot more. God – our Creator, Lord and Love – has the right to demand greater self-giving from us". Truly, as a faithful instrument of the Holy Spirit, he spoke with authority because he practised what he preached.

For all his simplicity, he was very intelligent and played a very significant but discreet part in the Second Vatican Council. He was very much responsible for introducing key ideas on the role of the laity in the Church into the Council documents and the decree on priesthood owed a lot to him. This led to him being greatly loved and respected within the Vatican itself although he was always very discreet about his activity in the Council and largely kept quiet about it.

Like John Paul II, Del Portillo has proven himself a prodigious miracle-worker after his death as thousands upon thousands of people have sought his intercession. More than 12,000 accounts of favours through his intercession have thus far reached the desk of his cause's Postulator, including various extraordinary cures but also many everyday little favours. His "speciality" seems to be helping married couples to live in harmony, couples to have children and bringing about family reconciliation.

The actual Vatican-approved miracle is the extraordinary recovery of a Chilean baby born with very severe heart and hernia problems and brain damage, culminating in a cardiac arrest of over 30 minutes with haemorrhaging.



Amazingly he came through unscathed. A month later he was discharged and today, 10 years on, he lives a totally normal life. His parents had first prayed for the boy, Jose Ignacio, through the intercession of Bishop Alvaro during what had been a difficult pregnancy. They kept praying to Del Portillo intensely, and getting others to do the same, in the most critical moments of his illness, even when the doctors assumed he was dead. He is now a normal boy who loves music and football. This experience also brought about a deep conversion in his parents.

The miracle that led to the beatification of Opus Dei leader

Jack Valero details the healing of baby José Ignacio Ureta Wilson

The Holy See has approved as miraculous the recovery of the child José Ignacio Ureta Wilson after a cardiac arrest lasting more than 30 minutes which took place on 2 August 2003.

José Ignacio was born on 10 July 2003 in Santiago de Chile, and was severely unwell. His condition included a 'tetralogy of Fallot' (a combination of four cardiac defects which brings about the mixture of deoxygenated blood with oxygenated blood) and an omphalocele, a protrusion of the abdominal contents through the abdominal wall.

Two days after his birth he underwent surgery for the omphalocele. During the operation he suffered his first cardiac arrest. Between 19 July and 25 July he had three episodes of severe hypoxia (low levels of oxygen in the blood): one, on 19 July, due to atelectasis (collapse of a segment of lung) in the whole left lung; and two on 25 July, due to atelectasis in the right lung. These events had grave consequences in the region of his brain: a diagnostic sonography of 28 July shows hypoxic-ischaemic lesions in the brain (that is, damage to brain tissue due to insufficient supply of oxygen). Shortly after, the position worsened, and during the night of 29-30 July, José Ignacio had a seizure.

The medical team decided to carry out a palliative heart operation termed a 'Blalock-Taussig shunt', on 30 July.

On 2 August, at around 1pm his condition deteriorated and he developed acute cardiac failure. At 2pm a similar episode occurred and José Ignacio was diagnosed with a massive cardiac tamponade. So much blood had accumulated around the heart that it was unable to pump blood around the body and he suffered a further cardiac arrest at 3.30pm.

José Ignacio received 30-45 minutes of intensive resuscitation (during which time his heart was not beating) including cardiac massage, pericardiocentesis (insertion of a needle into the lining around the



heart to evacuate the blood in the pericardium), and multiple blood transfusions. The situation continued to worsen and over 140 ml of blood was evacuated from the pericardium (greater than the estimated total blood volume for a baby of his size).

After 30-45 minutes of futile efforts, the medical team - as is usual in these cases - slowed down the manual ventilation and cardiac massage, as they thought the baby had died. At that moment, without any additional treatment and in a totally unexpected way, the baby's heart started beating again, soon reaching a rate of 130 beats per minute.

After such a prolonged cardiac arrest, the patient's brain, already affected by severe hypoxic damage in the first days of his life, would have experienced even more cerebral damage, much more serious than that suggested by the ultrasound scan of 28 July. However, this did not happen.

The condition of José Ignacio kept improving in the days following these events, and on 3 September 2003 he was discharged. Today, 10 years later, he leads a totally normal life.

José Ignacio's parents had prayed for their son through the intercession of the Servant of God Bishop Alvaro del Portillo already from before his birth, as it had been a difficult pregnancy. For some time, his mother had a prayer card of Bishop Alvaro on her

womb. Afterwards she also put a prayer card on the cot of the child, and asked her friends to entrust the health of José Ignacio to the intercession of Bishop del Portillo.

On 2 August, during the prolonged cardiac arrest, the parents asked with great faith for the healing of their child, reciting the prayer of Bishop Alvaro incessantly. Referring to that time, the mother of José Ignacio has said: 'I guess that while they revived him and I prayed, that was exactly the moment he improved. I would say that there was a link ... I never stopped thinking that it could be a miracle.'

In 2007, husband and wife travelled on pilgrimage to the tomb of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo in Rome to give thanks for the favour received.

As the healing appeared to be an extraordinary event, the Archbishop of Santiago de Chile, Ricardo Ezzati Andrello, according to the indications foreseen for these cases, opened an Inquiry Super Miraculo on 22 July 2008 and appointed a diocesan tribunal for the investigation. On 15 January 2010 the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approved the validity of the acts of the diocesan inquiry.

On 18 October 2012, the medical Council of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints examined the case. The doctors described two different aspects of the healing under study: the absence of neurological damage in relation to the cardiac arrest, taking into account the repeated hypoxic brain damage in the first days of life of the child; and the very fact the baby survived. The experts of the Congregation declared both facts to be inexplicable from the scientific point of view.

Subsequently, the case was submitted for examination to a committee of theological consultants who, at a meeting on 15 December 2012 declared that the link between the miraculous healing of José Ignacio and the prayers through the intercession of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo was proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Finally, the cardinals and bishops who are members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, at the regular meeting on 4 June 2013, in conformity with the conclusions reached by the

Council of medical doctors and the special Congress of theological consultants of the Congregation, resolved that it was solidly proven that the case should be considered a miracle.

Pope Francis, after having received from Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, a report of everything described above, declared on 5 July 2013 that there is sufficient proof that a miracle has been worked by God through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Alvaro del Portillo.

Jack Valero is the press officer of Opus Dei UK

July 13, 2013

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/613/18>

Our Marriage: Built on Love, Faith and a Sense of Humour

Ian and Nicola Lewis share the joys and struggles of married life and describe the impact of Saint Josemaría's teachings on their marriage.

Ian and Nicola live in Hamilton, New Zealand with their 8 children (with their 9th child due in April), ranging from 18 months to 15 years old.

January 07, 2013

How did you prepare for marriage?

Before we were engaged we discussed the essential aspects of marriage: lifelong, open to children, and faithful to God. Although we were both unsure about how to cope with a large family (if that was God's plan) we knew He would help us deal with things as they arose. We were both a little nervous about what the future would bring but we resolved to have faith and trust in each other and God and make that big step together.



Ian and Nicola

Ian proposed during a walk up Auckland's Mt Victoria and despite romantic intentions was unable to propose on one knee due to the numerous deposits left by the grazing cows. So from the very start we were well-grounded in the daily realities of life and the importance of a good sense of humour!

During our engagement we received marriage classes from a priest of Opus Dei, which helped to solidify our relationship and gave us a clear understanding of the commitment we were making. We learned that communication between spouses was crucial and that we would always have God's grace when we needed it, through the sacrament of marriage.

What is the best thing about your marriage?

We find that the best thing about our marriage is each other. We share the same beliefs and values and this has been a great benefit to making fundamental decisions such as having children, working through problems, and learning to love and forgive each other. We also love our children to bits – even though they sometimes drive us a little crazy. We pray together, go to Mass together and we are conscious that we need to help each other get to Heaven.

What are some of the challenges in married life?

It is sometimes a challenge to get everything done. Our home life often feels chaotic and disorganised. It can be a challenge to remain serene and patient. Sometimes the logistics of dropping kids off to school, sports and other activities makes us feel like a non-stop taxi service.

It is also a challenge to raise children in a society that doesn't support the Christian values we are trying to pass on. However, we believe that we can change society by being an active part of it. We pay attention to the books our children read, the movies they watch and also the friends they spend their time with. We make a determined effort to spend time with our children: family trips, one-on-one time (even just doing the dishes together), occasionally taking one or more of the kids out for an ice-cream etc. We have a few rules which can seem a bit restrictive to some: no sleepovers, one cell phone the children all have to share, limited computer & TV time. Instead of these things we do a lot of fun family trips and adventures (trips to the beach to watch the sun rise and drink a hot chocolate, trips to the west coast to watch the sunset and see the stars come out, day trips to national parks to play in the snow and visit hot springs). Many of our children's friends have commented to them that our family does "so much cool stuff" and we don't feel our children miss out by not having all the latest gadgets and technology.

How does your faith impact your approach to marriage?

We are both practicing Catholics and we attend daily Mass and go to Confession regularly. The spiritual aid that comes from the Sacraments is a big help when the inevitable problems arise in our family life. If one of us loses their temper, we always make sure to apologise and talk it over. This is because we made a lifelong commitment to love and honour each other, and also because we know God is present in our marriage and our family and that mere “surface manners” aren’t enough; God knows what’s going on in our hearts. This helps us go a lot deeper into the reasons for conflict, and helps us treat each other with respect and humility rather than reacting with wounded pride.



The Lewis family

Our faith also gives a deeper meaning to our marriage: rather than being a worthwhile but merely human thing, we believe that our marriage is a source of grace and a means for us to grow in holiness, and we treat things that threaten or weaken our marriage very seriously. We pray regularly for our marriage and our family too, asking Our Lady and St Joseph to help us imitate their family life.

How have St Josemaría’s teachings helped you as a couple?

St Josemaría’s teachings that married life is a source of sanctification for the couple have been a great help for us. We know that the way we love each other, the way we behave at home, the way we deal with our neighbours and friends, the manner in which we raise our children, are all tied up and linked with the grace of God and the everyday ordinary life each Christian lay person has to lead.

Both of us are part of Opus Dei and our daily effort to live out our vocation – trying to offer our work to God and to be a good parent and friend, finding time for God in prayer, Mass and the Rosary each day, regular confession, trying to be cheerful – helps us to keep starting over again (with God’s grace) when we mess up and make mistakes. Regular spiritual direction & formation helps us both humanly and spiritually.

Do you think it is important to have time alone as a couple?

Definitely! Although this can sometimes be a real challenge. Often the time in the evenings when the kids are in bed is taken up by other things and it can be difficult to find time on the weekends where we can just talk and spend some time together. But we make time to go out for dinner and movie dates regularly, and each year we go away for a weekend alone together. Sometimes we also send the kids to bed early so we can have time to talk or just have time as a couple.

What would you never give up as a family?

Communication, family prayer and the Rosary. We pray together each night and the kids join in for a decade of the Rosary and contribute their own little intentions – often a source of great amusement to us and the older children and probably Our Lord too.

What advice would you give to young couples preparing for marriage?

Get good advice from someone you trust, sort out the big issues before even considering marriage e.g. marriage is lifelong, open to children, and based on faith & God’s love and support. Then when you’ve clarified the important things and had some solid advice and formation, don’t wait. Get married and start the adventure.

Do you have any family customs or traditions at Christmas time?

We have a Christmas tree and a Jesse Tree which we make decorations for. We set up a crib and an Advent Wreath. The kids get involved in moving the crib figures closer and closer as Christmas Eve approaches. We talk with them about what St Joseph and Our Lady were going through and what the wise men would have been thinking. On Christmas Eve we go to midnight Mass and have a little tradition of gently putting the figure of the Child Jesus into the manger and all the kids give Him a kiss.

Favors received through Dora del Hoyo

She found us a house



I work in the domestic administration of a center of Opus Dei in Sant Cugat del Valles. When I first started there, I was taught to pray, after the Angelus, a prayer to Dora asking for help with my daily work. In a few days I had learned the prayer by heart and I began to go to her with any difficulty in my work. She always helped me.

Then four months ago I decided that I would also ask her for help with my personal affairs, and I began to entrust everything I needed to her intercession.

The first favor she did for me concerned my apartment. I had spent almost two years looking for an apartment that would work for my new family situation. My husband had become partially paralyzed as a result of a stroke, and therefore had to leave his job as a truck driver. We have a 20-year old son and a 15-year old daughter. Therefore, we needed an apartment with an elevator, plenty of sunlight, enough room for everyone, two bathrooms, centrally located, and near the gym where my husband has his therapy so that he can learn to walk again. If possible, it should also have a balcony where my husband could sit in the sun and read. These are a lot of conditions, but I began to pray with faith. The following day the realtor told me that he knew of an apartment and asked whether I wanted to go and see it. I began praying insistently to Dora that she would really come through.

We went with my husband to see the apartment and with a lot of enthusiasm we realized that it fulfilled all of our conditions... except for one: it only had one bathroom. "Too bad!" I said to Dora. I immediately noticed a door and asked what was behind it. Imagine my surprise when I opened the door and saw a new bathroom! I am sure that this was thanks to Dora since if the owners and the realtor would have known about it they would have asked for much higher rent. I thanked Dora, and I also asked her to help so that the furniture

from my old apartment would work in the new one. The second favor was that it all fit perfectly and I now have a lovely apartment.

Seeing how effective she was and thinking that three is the charm, I asked her to help us sell my husband's truck which had been idle since the accident and had a mortgage on it. In just a few days we had sold the truck.

I keep praying to Dora, thanking her and asking her to protect my whole family. I am sure that now that she has found us a home, she won't fail to give us a hand with everything else.

A.E.B. (Spain)

In the blink of an eye

I read the favors and articles that are published in this blog of Dora del Hoyo. This morning I had to get a marriage certificate for a relative who is in another country. I was given permission to take the morning off from work in order to do this, but I had to be back by noon.

I arrived a little before 11:00 a.m. and found that there were 53 people ahead of me in line. I was about to leave but I thought I should stay for a little while to see how quickly the line was moving. The minutes went by, and at 11:35 there were still about 30 ahead of me. I decided that if I hadn't moved to the front by 11:45, I would have to give up, because I had to leave that office no later than 12:00.

Then I remembered reading a favor titled "I moved up in line" and I decided to ask Dora to do me this favor. I had her prayer card in my purse and I prayed it one time without a lot of faith, but then I prayed it a second time asking forcefully, "Dora, move me forward!"

What a surprise to see that after number 165 (I had number 182) they called number 179, because many of those who had been waiting had already given up and left. My number was called in the blink of an eye! Everything turned out well, and I left the city office by 11:59 a.m.



M.Z. (Italy)

St. Josemaría in Korea

Hijung Shin, Korea

May 7, 2013

A friend gave me a copy of **“The Way”** when I was in college. That was the very first book I read by St. Josemaría. It touched me deeply, and I wanted to read more. I learned many things from St. Josemaría’s writings: how to talk to God, how to take care of little things, love for the Church... But most of all they made me very happy. I wanted to share it with as many people as possible, including my family and friends from my country, Korea.



When I heard that Opus Dei was beginning its apostolic activities in Korea, in the summer of 2009, I became more interested and started to look for Korean translations about St. Josemaría or his writings. I learned that “The Way” had been translated and published a few years ago, and it was greatly appreciated by many readers. However, there were still many, many more works I would love to see in Korean.

A friend whose second language was Korean, had already started translating a short biography of St. Josemaría for children. I helped to revise the text, while beginning to translate some of his homilies and writings. When I finish some text, I share it with my friends in Korea, who share it with their friends. Someday, we hope, these writings will be published so they can reach more people.

I am a beneficiary of translations myself. Mostly, I read St. Josemaría’s writings through English translations. Each time, I am more grateful for the author and for the many translators who work to bring St. Josemaría’s teachings to more people.

St. Josemaría wrote, “I would like to write books of fire which would run like wild-fire throughout the world.” I spend time searching and searching for the best word, or the perfect phrase to translate that “fire” that I find in all his books. Still, sometimes they are not satisfactory. Words alone don’t seem enough to carry the contagious passion with which St. Josemaría spoke about Love. Then, two thoughts console me: Soon more people will meet St. Josemaría in Korea and then more and better translations will come. Then again, certainly, the saint will help from Heaven, to kindle the fire where mere words fail.

Favors granted through the intercession of St. Josemaría Escrivá

After 49 years

This happened a week before the Mass for St. Josemaría on June 26. I was doing my prayer one morning and the Holy Spirit inspired me to pray to St Josemaría for his intercession to bring my brother to “his” Mass (that is, Solemn Mass for St Josemaría in Hong Kong).



Later that day, my husband and I had lunch with my brother. We invited him for dinner on June 26 but we asked him to attend the Mass for St Josemaría before that. His home is actually a 5 minute walk to the church where the Mass will be celebrated. He looked at the invitation for one minute and agreed to accompany us to the Mass, saying he would like to “go and have a look”.

At that moment, I could not hide my joy inside and said “thank you Father” in my heart. The last time he went to church was 49 years ago and he was an altar boy then.

After the Mass, my husband asked him if he felt bored, and my brother said he did not really think of it as a boring event. I continue praying to St Josemaría for his conversion and I am sure that there is something for him. St. Josemaría helped my brother make the step back to God on his special day.

*M.L., Hong Kong
July 6, 2013*



Never give up!

Early this year, my family decided to settle in Hong Kong. I thought finding work wasn't that hard. I had a good job and good credentials back in the Philippines.

However, three months had already passed and I had no luck in any interviews. I was disheartened and I thought of giving up and considered returning to Manila. My friend suggested I pray the Novena for work. I prayed for 9 consecutive days and waited and waited. It was hard to be patient but I know that St. Escrivá never fails to intercede in small favors.

I continued praying the Novena. I believed that despite how hard the situation, there would be an answer and a reason for everything, because God never abandons. And in every moment in my life, St. Escrivá is leading me closer to our Lord. After continuously praying the Novena for a month, and when I felt I was about to give up, I found a job! Thank you St. Escrivá for granting this favor! It was in his month (June 26) that I received it.

*C.Ng, Hong Kong
August 21, 2013*

I got the transfer

I am a teacher. I stopped working when I got married. When our youngest daughter was nine I decided to go back to work and entered for a competitive examination for a teaching post. I prayed to St. Josemaría for help as it wasn't going to be easy – I hadn't taught for 16 years and I was competing against teachers who were either fresh from training, or had lots of experience. Thanks to St. Josemaría's intercession I passed the exam, but the post I was allocated was in a fairly dangerous area, affected by the violence that my country is suffering from. My husband, my children and I all asked God and the Blessed Virgin, through St. Josemaría's intercession, for the favor of a transfer for me to a place that was nearer where we live and not so dangerous, because where I was working, we often had to teach amidst shootouts between the local gangs. Also the travelling used up a lot of time and money. To qualify for a transfer I needed to have worked at least three years in the same school. However, after just one and a half years, I got a transfer to a new school.



We are convinced that it was thanks to the intercession of the Founder of Opus Dei. A few days after I started at the new school, I realized there was a church called St. Josemaría Escrivá's in the same district. This district also suffered from violence, unfortunately, but not as much as the first one.

We carried on praying, through St. Josemaría's intercession, for the transfer I really wanted, which would mean changing to a different local authority. This was very difficult to obtain unless I had someone to give me a reference, which I didn't. I submitted the documentation required by the educational department, and in January this year I got a letter notifying me that my transfer had been approved. I only worked in the second school for eleven months. The Blessed Virgin Mary granted us the favour we asked, through St. Josemaría's intercession.

Now I'm working in a school close to my house. I normally say the rosary on my way to work, and now I don't even have time to finish one rosary. I don't have to pay any fares, and the area is a very quiet, safe one. We are all very grateful to St. Josemaría for his intercession and help throughout the whole process. We feel that he is constantly with us.

L.L., Colombia
July 1, 2013

They gave me the job

I wanted to tell people that I heard about St. Josemaría through a great friend of mine. She introduced me to him and I have given thanks every day since that wonderful encounter. Thanks to him, I have come back to God, and my life is much richer now with reference to faith. Next, I made a very special petition through his intercession: to get a job. On June 26 that year I had an interview. It was not easy because that day I had a terrible toothache. Afterwards I had a six-month wait until January 9 (the Opus Dei founder's birthday) when I was told I had got the job.



Thank you St. Josemaría! I am happy in my work and the people I work with every day.

M.S.C., Argentina
July 19, 2013

Out of danger

A family member was seriously ill after a severe bout of pneumonia. I prayed for her through St. Josemaría's intercession. I kept saying the prayer-card the whole time she was in hospital: 3 weeks in intensive care and 2 more on the hospital ward. After having been at death's door, she is now out of danger and recovering steadily. I am grateful to the founder of Opus Dei for this. Thank you!



J.G.B., Spain
July 17, 2013

She found she was pregnant



A friend of mine had been married for 4 years and had not been able to have a baby. She told me about this and I suggested praying the prayer to Saint Josemaría every day for this favor. She was a bit prejudiced, but she agreed to do so. Two weeks after we started praying, she found she was pregnant. We attribute this favor to the founder of Opus Dei.

A., Argentina
July 4, 2013

Aged 40

My parents had been married for 15 years and had not been able to have children. My Mom underwent all sorts of treatments but with no success. When she was 38 she gave up trying and stopped any kind of treatment. Then a woman she met gave her a prayer-card of Saint Josemaría and she started praying it.



Shortly afterwards, quite unexpectedly, she found she was pregnant with me. She had me when she was 40, and the doctors were surprised, since she wasn't following any course of treatment. Her pregnancy was straightforward and despite my Mom's age, I was born without any problem. My parents and I are very grateful. I would just add that I was born on September 14 – which we celebrate as the feast of the Lord of Miracles.

M.J.C., Colombia

June 27, 2013